

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Claims 1-19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A therapeutic composition for administration via the pulmonary airways comprising substantially dry, discrete microcapsules having a solid wall formed of a non-denatured, water-soluble wall-forming material, wherein the wall-forming material is a protein, peptide, or enzyme, and wherein said microcapsules have a mean size of between 1 and 10 μm , and a therapeutically effective amount of a therapeutic agent; wherein the wall forming material optionally is the therapeutic agent.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 20, wherein said therapeutic agent is the sole component of the microcapsule.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 20, wherein the particle size of said microcapsule is between 1 and 5 μm .

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 20, wherein said microcapsules have a maximum interquartile range of 3 μm .

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 20, wherein said microcapsules have a maximum interquartile range of 2 μm .

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The composition according to any of claims 20 to 23, which is sterile.

Claim 26 (Cancelled)

Claim 27 (Cancelled)

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 20, wherein said water-soluble material is a human protein or fragment or recombinant thereof.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 20, wherein said water-soluble material is a protein with a NH, CO, OH or SH retained functional group.

Claim 30 (Cancelled)

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 21, wherein the particle size of said microcapsule is between 1 and 5 μm .

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 21, wherein said microcapsules have a maximum interquartile range of 3 μm .

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 21, wherein said microcapsules have a maximum interquartile range of 2 μm .

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The composition according to any of claims 31-33, which is sterile.

Claim 35 (Cancelled)

Claim 36 (Cancelled)

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 21, wherein said water-soluble material is a human protein or fragment or recombinant thereof.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 21, wherein said water-soluble material is a protein with a NH, CO, OH or SH retained functional group.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): A therapeutic or diagnostic composition for administration via the pulmonary airways comprising substantially dry, discrete microcapsules having a solid wall formed of a non-denatured, water-soluble wall-forming material, wherein the wall-forming material is an amino or polyamino acid, and wherein said microcapsules have a mean size of between 1 and 10 μm , and an effective amount of a therapeutic or diagnostic agent; wherein the wall forming material optionally is the therapeutic or diagnostic agent.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 39, wherein said therapeutic or diagnostic agent is the sole component of the microcapsule.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 39, wherein the particle size of said microcapsule is between 1 and 5 μm .

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 39, wherein said microcapsules have a maximum interquartile range of 3 μm .

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 39, wherein said microcapsules have a maximum interquartile range of 2 μm .

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 39, which is sterile.